

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR. PORG, UN, IS, MX

SUBJ: CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT: ZIONISM RESOLUTION

1. DURING THE VISIT OF CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NARCOTICS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, THEY ASKED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT ALONE WITH ME. THOUGH IT WAS EMBARRASSING TO APPEAR TO EXCLUDE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SEVERAL OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE TO SUGGEST A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ECHEVERRIA AND HE ASSENTED LEADING US INTO ANOTHER ROOM.

2. THE CONGRESSMEN RAISED MATTER OF MEXICO'S ANTI ZIONISM VOTE POINTING OUT THE GRAVE DAMAGE THIS HAD DONE TO MEXICO'S IMAGE IN THE U.S. AND PARTICULARLY IN THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. THEY POINTED OUT THAT IT APPEARED TO UNDERMINE THE VERY BASIS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

3. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE HIS POSITION CLEAR AND PROCEEDED TO DO THIS IN HIS USUAL REPETITIVE (AND NOT VERY CLEAR) FASHION. FIRST OF ALL HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE DECISION ON THE VOTE

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WAS HIS VERY OWN AND SHOULD NOT BE ASCRIBED TO ANY OF

HIS SUBORDINATES. IN THE SECOND PLACE MISTAKE (AND HE ADMITTED THIS FREELY) HAD BEEN MADE IN NOT MAKING AN EXPLANATION ON THE VOTE AT THE UNGA. MEXICO WAS NOT AGAINST ZIONISM BUT IT WAS AGAIN EXPANSIONISM. (HE POINTED OUT THE ALLITERATIVE PUN INVOLVED BETWEEN ZIONISMO AND EXPANSIONISMO). MEXICO'S POSITION WAS BASED SQUARELY ON UN RESOLUTIONS AND THIS REQUIRED ISRAEL TO STOP BEING EXPANSIONIST, TO RETURN TO THE 1967 BORDERS AND TO BE FLEXIBLE IN HELPING TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE. ALONG WITH THIS MEXICO SUPPORTED THE U.N. RESOLUTION WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND IT WAS OPPOSED TO ANY ATTEMPT TO EXPEL IT FROM THE U.N.

4. THE CONGRESSMEN SAID THEY COULD AGREE WITH HIS POSITION BUT THAT IT WOULD APPEAR AS IF MORE ATTENTION HAD BEEN GIVEN BY MEXICO TO THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE THAN TO THE MATTER OF SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. THEY HOPED THAT HE WOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR IN HIS FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS JEWISH LEADERS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, WHO ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT MEXICO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEY ALSO HOPED THAT HE WOULD MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PALESTINE PEOPLE AND THE PLO WHICH THEY CONSIDERED TO BE A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO KILLING INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

5. THE PRESIDENT AGREED WITH THE CONGRESSMEN (FORGETTING THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE HAS ADVISED US THAT THE PLO IS A FACT OF LIFE AND IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THAT IT IS MORE MODERATE THAN ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUP WHICH MIGHT EMERGE ETC.) AND SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE THE VISIT OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER INTO A MAJOR EVENT. HE STRESSED HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MEXICO POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE COUNTRY, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THEIR LEADERS TO MAKE A SIMILAR EXPLANATION RE MEXICO'S POSITION AND THAT THEY HAD SEEMED SATISFIED. HE DID POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH

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THE MEXICO JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAD REQUESTED THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO STOP THEIR BOYCOTT ON MEXICO, OBSERVING THAT IF SUCH A BOYCOTT WERE TO PERSIST IT MIGHT WELL CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A FEELING OF ANTI JEWISHNESS IN MEXICO WHICH WAS HITHERTO COMPLETELY UNKNOWN. IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO SET THE JEWISH COMMUNITY APART FROM THE MAIN STREAM OF MEXICAN LIFE THROUGH SUCH EXTREME PRESSURE. THE CONGRESSMEN

VOLUNTERED THEIR AGREEMENT THAT MEXICO SHOULD NOT BE
SUBJECT TO PRESSURES OF THIS SORT, AS IT WOULD BE NOT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DIGNITY TO BOW TO BOYCOTTS, ETC..

6. THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING ENDED ON EXTREMELY
CORDIAL NOTE WITH THE PRESIDENT AUTOGRAPHING PHOTOGRAPHS
FOR THE VISITING CONGRESSMEN.

7. COMMENT: RE THE PROPOSED VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER
ALLON, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TELLS US THAT SUCH A VISIT
IS NOT IN THE CARDS AT THIS TIME. IT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED
TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH BUT HAD NOW BEEN "POSTPONED
INDEFINITELY" DUE TO DOMESTIC ISRAELI CRITICISM
OF ALLON'S HANDLING OF THE RABASA VISIT.
JOVA

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